



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with Virginia Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

Virginia Field Office

P.O. Box 1659

Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2018

Contact: Herman Ellison
(804) 771-8560

NASS still accepting completed Census forms

RICHMOND, Va. – As we celebrate National Ag week, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service wants farmers to know they still have time to be counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Although the first deadline has passed, NASS will continue to accept Census information to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture that represents all farmers.

“NASS needs a Census of Agriculture response from all Virginia producers,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “In order to get an accurate representation of the Commonwealth’s agriculture, NASS will continue to accept completed Census questionnaires through spring. All operations are important and every response matters. NASS is committed to giving producers every opportunity to be represented in these widely-used data.”

Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it, even if not currently farming. NASS will continue to follow-up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. To avoid these additional contacts, farmers are encouraged to complete their Census either online or by mail as soon as possible. Responding online saves time by skipping sections that do not apply and automatically calculating totals. The online questionnaire is accessible on desktops, laptops, and mobile devices.

“Our goal is at least 80 percent response, and Virginia’s return rate is currently at 51 percent,” Ellison said. “We have several counties under 45 percent, and we’re asking every farmer to take the time to respond to the Census.”

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. For questions or assistance filling out the Census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

For more information about Virginia surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (800) 772-0670, or visit https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Virginia/.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).